

HOW VA'S ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION EFFORT WILL BENEFIT VETERANS

he Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a multiyear effort to modernize its nearly 40-year-old electronic health record (EHR) system. The new EHR gives VA providers secure access to patients' complete medical history from the time

they entered military service through their transition to Veteran status and beyond. The system will improve delivery of care and simplify the patient experience, connecting VA, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard and participating community providers on one platform.

With VA's new EHR system, Veterans will:



No longer need to keep up with printed health records, repeat tests or provide basic info, such as drug allergies, with each provider.



Have potential health risks tracked and identified earlier.



Receive better preventive care with treatments based on where and when they served.



Benefit from improved strategies to address suicide risk and post-traumatic stress disorder.



Be better protected from opioid abuse, with prescribers using a national prescription drug monitoring report to inform medication decisions.



